

REMARKS**A. Status of the Claims and Explanation of the Amendments**

Prior to the submission of this paper, claims 1-26 were pending. Claims 1-3, 13-15, and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,206,677 to Onuki ("Onuki"). Claims 1, 8, 13, 20, 25, and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,933,661 to Kawanami ("Kawanami"). Additionally, the Examiner has objected to claims 4-7, 9-12, 16-19, and 21-24, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In this paper, Applicant has amended claims 1, 8, 13, 20, 25, and 26. For example, claim 1 has been amended by incorporating elements of claims 2-5. Claim 8 has been amended by incorporating elements of claims 9 and 11. Claim 13 has been amended by incorporating elements of claims 14 and 17. Claim 20 has been amended by incorporating elements of claims 21 and 23. Accordingly, Applicant has requested cancellation of claims 2-5, 9, 11, 14, 15, 17, 21 and 23. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 8, 13, 20, 25, and 26 are now in condition for allowance, along with the remaining claims that depend therefrom. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of these claims are respectfully requested.

Applicant has also added claims 27 and 28. Support for these claims is found throughout the specification (e.g., see paragraphs [0090] to [0097]). Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION

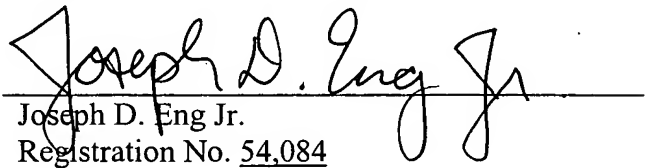
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-5119. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-5119. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: September 22, 2004

By:


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